On the line 10¢

Tuesday, March 12, 1973 Volume 4 Number 2

# United Aircraft workers strongly support strike

MONTREAL—Production workers at four United Aircraft plants in Montreal voted 82 per cent in favour of continuing their strike against the American owned company. The vote came on Friday, February 22 when 1,700 of the 2,600 striking workers met to discuss the latest company proposal for a new contract. The company offer was denounced by the Union spokesman as "totally unacceptable".

On every issue of importance to the workers, the United Aircraft capitalists refused to make any changes. They refused to agree to the workers' demands for voluntary overtime and instead put forward a scheme whereby only a certain amount of overtime would be compulsory. They rejected the workers' demands for union security whereby all employees in the bargaining unit are obliged to pay union dues but are not obliged to be members of the union. By rejecting this demand, the capitalists wanted to keep the door open for massive hiring of non-union labour in order to smash local 510 of the United Auto Workers which represents the United Aircraft workers.

The United Aircraft capitalists also refused to reinstate a worker who was fired because of his militant stand against the capitalists in the January 4th wildcat which precipitated the official strike on January 9th. In addition the company ignored the workers' demands for a uniform wage increase for all the workers in the plants and have proposed a cost-of-living escalator clause which imposes a 9 per cent ceiling instead of one with no ceiling which the workers are demanding.

The United Aircraft capitalists published full-page ads in the Montreal papers prior to the vote by the workers on this latest bogus offer. The ads, one of which appeared on the day of the vote by the workers, contained outright threats against the workers' jobs. For instance, the ad which appeared on the day of the workers vote said in part: "The longer the strike continues, the fewer jobs will be available in our plants when the strike eventually ends.

"The union cannot create jobs—but it can cause us to lose them. It, too, should think about this.

**"Think about it.**

"These are important considerations employees should weigh most seriously as they prepare to vote on the company's offer...."

During the course of this strike the United Aircraft capitalists have brought all their guns to bear in a vicious attempt to break the just strike of the workers of United Aircraft. This has included suspensions and firing

continued on page 4

## Editorial

# A Call For Workers' Correspondence

In the last issue, the On The Line staff stated a position which clearly supported the progressive movement of the working class in opposition to the dictatorial rule of the capitalist class in Canada. It is our view that the paper can best serve the interests of the working class movement by encouraging the development of workers' correspondence as an important part of the paper.

The monopoly capitalist class which controls over 99 per cent of the newspapers, magazines and periodicals in the country, uses these publications to serve its own class interests. The capitalist class ensures that workers have no access to their pubications and those publications are used to propagate the political line of the monopoly capitalists. A working class newspaper must also serve the interests of its class . Workers must have access to the paper to discuss the pressing problems they are facing, to discuss the lessons they have learned from the class struggle which goes on every day, and to discuss the political and economic affairs of the society.

We encourage workers to participate in political and economic affairs, to uphold the working class view in all situations and to struggle without faltering against the dictatorship of the capitalist class. The struggle for socialism is being taken up by progressive people all over the world. The most developed form of monopoly capitalism—U.S. imperialism and Soviet social imperialism are meeting with large scale defeats at the hands of progressive people on every front. Movements of national liberation and movements for socialism are growing out of the great disorder which is developing as the world system of imperialism is dying. Workers, peasants and students, in country after country are surging forward in a great wave of opposition to the continued exploitation and suppression practiced by the imperialists and the sell-out ruling class of capitalists and big landlords in their own countries.

The just demands of workers for a decent living standard, working conditions which are suitable to themselves and job security is the main force for revolution in Canada. The greed of the American imperialists and their lackies in Canada for higher and higher rates of profits, along with the deterioration of the system of world imperialism ensure that the capitalists will not meet the demands of the working class. Instead they will try to increase their exploitation of the working masses and suppress the struggles of the working class.

But the workers of Canada will not stand for increased exploitation and they are learning to meet the repression of the capitalist class with staunch resistance in opposition to the rule of the monopoly capitalists. The monopoly capitalist class is a backward force in Canada. They are holding back the development of production and they are preventing the working class from solving the problems which face the large majority of people in the country. As is pointed out in this paper, the monopoly capitalists actually see growing inflation and unemployment as good for Canada. These conditions are good only for the capitalist class—the

# Doehler workers continue strike for their just demands

GUELPH—Workers at the Doehler plant in Guelph have been on strike since January 20th and they are prepared to stay on strike as long as necessary to win their demands for decent wages and better working conditions in the plant. The workers, through their union, Local 553 of the United Electrical Workers, are demanding wage increases of $1.70 per hour over three years to bring their wages into line with wages paid in other similar plants in Ontario. They are also demanding a cost-of-living clause to protect their wages from inflation.

The company officials wouldn't even make an offer to the workers for the month after the strike started. It was only when the workers' union started to bring charges against the company for bargaining in bad faith that the company, under advice from the Labour Relations Board, made an offer. And the offer they made was for 56 cents over three years (20-18-18 in each of the three years) with no cost of living clause. The workers rejected the offer as totally unacceptable. This position of the workers is completely justified. The cost of living has risen by 9.1 per cent in 1973 and the figures for January show a yearly rate of 9.6 per cent. The federal government has admitted that inflation will probably rise by about 10 per cent this year and there's no reason to expect any decline in that rate in years to come.

The Doehler company is a good example of the greed of American monopoly capitalists in their attempts to reap huge profits by using the Canadian working class as cheap labour. Doehler is owned by Doehler-Jarvis of Ohio, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Lead Corp. of New York. National Lead had profits of over $36 million dollars last year on sales in the range of one and a half billion dollars. These figures were pointed out by the workers' spokesman when he was describing the attitude of the company in negotiations. He explained that one of the demands they have made is for a ten minute coffee break in the morning (before this strike there was no coffee break in the morning). The workers have a five minute wash-up period before lunch and the company officials said that if the workers would give up their five minute wash-up period, then the company would "throw in five minutes, too" and they would get their ten minute coffee break in the morning. The workers have a right to five minutes wash-up time before they eat their lunch, they also have the right to a ten minute coffee break during the morning. They have the right to demand that these working conditions be met and the company has no right to carry out wheeler-dealer negotiations which offer to trade one right for another.

During the course of the last contract there was another incident on the question of coffee breaks which ended up with the workers winning a big victory over the capitalists at Doehler. A foreman in the plant had refused to give the workers a ten minute coffee

---

working class and its allies must oppose these conditions and oppose the class of monopoly capitalists which is creating them.

A socialist society will be built on the firm basis of this growing movement of the working class.

break before they started working overtime. The workers refused to work overtime unless they got the break which had always been customary in the past but was not written into their contract. Company officials charged 28 workers, the union president and the union itself with breech of contract over this matter and wanted fines levied against them ($2,000 per worker and $20,000 for the union), plus the union paying some huge sum for 'loss of production.' When the hearings began at the Labour Relations Board the workers union took all 28 workers who were charged with the offence to the hearings. Pulling these 28 workers out of the plant effectively closed down production at the plant and with the prospect of quite lengthy hearings, the company decided to withdraw the charges it had made. The workers had also filed grievances in this incident and they only agreed to let the matter drop when the company officials agreed to guarantee a ten minute coffee break before overtime started.

This is proof that the only weapon workers have which gives any power in negotiations with the capitalists is the right to withold their labour power. The workers at Doehler are prepared to struggle hard for decent wages and better working conditions because they have learned from their experience that these things can only be won by fighting hard and using every opportunity to take the initiative against the capitalists.

---

The strike of 667 York region teachers, north of Toronto, is still continuing and negotiations between the teachers' representatives and the York County Board of Education are also continuing. The Ontario government has not tried to intervene in the strike by passing anti-strike legislation against the teachers, as it had threatened it might do.

# United Aircraft

**continued from page 1**

before the strike started, court injunction, arrests and this latest attempt to threaten and intimidate the workers into agreeing to the company terms, while the strike is in progress.

The rejection of the company's proposal is a great victory for the workers at United Aircraft and a crushing defeat for the monopoly capitalists. The workers have not only rejected overwhelmingly the inadequate and unacceptable offer of the capitalists, but they have also said NO! to the threats, intimidation and unbridled violence of the monopoly capitalists at United Aircraft. The vote shows clearly that the workers will never be forced to give up their struggle as a result of the vicious attacks of the capitalists. In 1967, the capitalists were able to smash the workers' strike at United Aircraft. The vote on February 22 is a crushing defeat for the capitalists.

The capitalists at United Aircraft are more isolated than ever before as a result of the workers' determination to carry on their strike until their just demands for higher wages, voluntary overtime, cost-of-living allowance, and union security are all met to their satisfaction. The workers have every right to sell their labour power at a price which they find acceptable. They have every right to demand working conditions which are acceptable to themselves. They have every right to demand that the position of their trade union be safeguarded. The capitalists have no right whatever to try to deny the workers their fundamental rights or to threaten the workers and commit acts of violence against them for going on strike for these rights.

The vote of the workers has shown clearly that the workers will not give up their struggle for their basic rights.

# Canadian Gypsum

MONTREAL—The 76 workers at the U.S. Canadian Gypsum plant here in the city voted on March 3 to accept a new contract in which the company had agreed to meet most of their demands. The contract is a victory for the Canadian Gypsum workers who have been on strike since March 23, 1973. The workers have won the strike despite the the fact that the Gypsum capitalists used strike breakers in special armoured buses to break through the picket lines, called on Montreal police to attack the workers and went to the capitalist courts to get injunctions against the strikers.

Meanwhile, the 100 workers at the Canadian Gypsum plant in Joliette, who have been on strike since May 7, 1973 continue their struggle for a new contract. The main issue at the Joliette plant is union security. Workers at the two plants have fought side by side during the many months against the Canadian Gypsum capitalists. Any hope the capitalists might have had of dividing the workers in this struggle was smashed when the Montreal workers voted unanimously to give the remaining portion of their strike fund to the workers in Joliette.

---

More price rises of basic food products have taken place in February in Canada. In some areas milk has risen another two cents a quart, bread will go up 2 to 4 cents a loaf soon and the price of sugar has risen by 42.3 per cent. Many of the price rises are caused by U.S. imperialism's policy of hoarding and buying entire surplusses. For example, the U.S. has offered to buy the total 1974 production of butter and cheese in Canada. That means great shortages in Canada and unstable prices of imported food products.

# *Trudeau blames the people*

Speaking in a television interview on February 17, Prime Minister Trudeau discussed the question of the state of the Canadian economy and specifically of the increasing rate of inflation in the economy. He said that inflation would continue to grow at more or less the same rate as in 1973 when it climbed 9.1 per cent. He went on to say that inflation is out of the hands of government and is caused by people "who want to take more out of society than they put into it."

Inflation is caused in Canada, as in every capitalist society, by the fact that the monopoly capitalists seek maximum profits from the exploitation of labour and create a situation of "too many dollars chasing too few goods and service". Inflation is a permanent feature of the capitalist system.

Trudeau says that inflation is caused by people whom he does not name. In any case, they are "unscrupulous individuals" who want to get something for nothing and who cause inflation in this way. According to this line, inflation is not inherent in the capitalist system and can be done away with by some capitalist reforms. Furthermore, inflation is not caused by the capitalist class, but by some unnamed individuals.

The theory which Trudeau offers fits the needs of the monopoly capitalists very well. It permits them to hide behind some "unscrupulous individuals" and obscure the fact that it is their greed for profits—as a class—which causes inflation and unemployment. It also allows the capitalist system to remain unaffected while the capitalists carry out some meaningless "reforms".

# *Capitalist class profits from increased inflation and unemployment*

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an organization encompassing 24 capitalist states, including Canada, recently released a report in which it discusses the economic prospects for Canada in 1974 and reviews the Canadian economy for 1973. It said that the performance of the Canadian economy in 1973 was impressive and predicted that Canada's economy will have a good year in 1974. It qualifies the statement about a good year in 1974 by saying that inflation and unemployment will very likely increase in Canada in the coming year.

This is a very clear example of how the monopoly capitalists turn things on their heads in order to obscure the real relations. The monopoly capitalists talk about a good year for the economy, when there will be even more inflation and unemployment than in 1973. Obviously such a year can only be "good" for the monopoly capitalist class. Such a year will bring them record increases in profits, as did 1973. According to the capitalists and their representatives, such a year of sharply rising profits is an excellent situation, while rising unemployment for the working class and the rising cost of basic necessities which the workers must buy do not matter in the least.

The year 1973 was not a "good" or "impressive" year for the working class of Canada. This past year brought massive inflation, the worst since World War II, and very high unemployment. This situation of skyrocketing inflation and sharply rising unemployment has taken a turn for the worse in the first weeks of 1974. The conditions for the working class were bad and are getting worse. The profits of the monopoly capitalists are increasing every day.

However, the "good" situation for the monopoly capitalists is based on the exploitation of the labour of the working class. This exploitation must be intensified in order for the situation of the capitalists to continue to "improve". This very intensified exploitation will change the bad situation of the workers into a good one, because the working class is already resisting the attacks of the monopoly capitalists on their living and working conditions and will eventually put an end to this oppression.

The O.E.C.D. report turned the facts on their head. It described the situation of the small handful of monopoly capitalists, not the situation of the working class. But the suffering of the working class from capitalist exploitation will be turned into its opposite.

## Montreal garment workers

All six thousand Montreal garment workers of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, voted on the morning of February 22 to end their 16-day old strike against the men's clothing manufacturers of the city. The contract which the workers received is much better than the companies' original offer. The workers will receive an 85 cent hourly raise over a two year contract, and an extra week of holidays in the summer. The workers will receive 40 cents an hour more retroactive to December 1, 1973 and another 45 cents an hour on December 1, 1974.

# Great disorder in India

Capitalism has been restored in the Soviet Union under the guise of a state which calls itself socialist in order to oppose socialism. This is nowhere more evident than in the international policy of the new tsars who have seized power in the Soviet Union. The Breshnev clique claims to uphold the socialist principles of Internationalism in their dealings with other countries while they have revised all those principles to serve their own ends of world domination, exploitation of the people of other nations and suppression of the struggles of the world people for liberation and socialism. The leaders of the Soviet Union have become known in the international socialist movement as Revisionists and their policies of world domination as Soviet Social-Imperialism.

While the prestige of the Soviet Revisionists has plunged to an all time low, they continue their policies of domination, exploitation and suppression by making alliances with the exploiting class wherever they can dig in their claws.

The policy of "Detente" between the ruling class in the Soviet Union and the ruling class in the United States is nothing but a cover-up for the real intentions of the two imperialist powers. During the 1960's when the economies of the super-powers were expanding and they were confident of their ability to rule the world, the policy of colluding to suppress struggles for national liberation and socialism was the main tendency between the two super powers. Now, with the economies of the whole capitalist world in bad shape (including the Soviet Union) and the confidence of the super-powers in their ability to rule being undermined every day, the ruling classes of the super-powers are trying to whip up hysteria for inter-imperialist war as a means of solving their economic problems and consolidating their rule of the world. The so-called "cooling-off" between the Breznev clique and the Nixon clique on the question of 'Detente' reflects this general change in the world situation.

The situation which is developing on the Indian sub-continent is a good example of the whole process of change which is taking place on a world-wide scale. During the 60's, while U.S. imperialism was engaged in massive operations in southeast Asia (being defeated by the Vietnamese and Cambodian people) the Soviet social imperialists dug their claws in to India by means of providing 'aid' to the tottering regime of Indira Ghandi and her Congress Party which represents the sell-out capitalists and big landlords in India. Using this 'aid' as a lever, the Soviet Union now controls 85 per cent of India's machine-building industry, 60 per cent of its electrical industry, 35 per cent of its petroleum refinery industry, 38 per cent of its steel production and 20 per cent of its electrical power.

While the Revisionists talk about "building self-reliance" in India, Soviet "advisors" have become indispensible to the operation of the Indian economy. The social-imperialists use their position of dominance in the Indian economy to force India to buy goods at higher than world prices and to sell their goods to the Soviet Union at lower than the market price. For example, the per-unit price of oil and oil-products sold to India by the Soviet Union from 1970 and 1971 was on the average 30 per cent higher than that same merchandise sold to West Germany. At the same time the price for jute exported to the Soviet Union by India was 31 per cent lower than the average price of jute exported to other countries. Recently, the Indian press has pointed out that the price India must pay for kerosene from the Soviet Union is four and a half times greater than the price paid last year while the prices of Indian jute and tea exported to the Soviet Union have been lowered considerably as a result of Soviet pressure. Even the credits which the Soviet Union grants to India further this process of domination and exploitation. The credits are goods credits designed to tie Indian industrial production to export to the Soviet Union for many years to come. **Pravda** commentator, Yuri Zhukov, speaking in Moscow exposed the nature of these credits quite directly. The Soviet Union he said, "assists India in building factories and India will repay us with output from these factories. This is a promising and effective co-operation for there is no lack of manpower in India."

At the same time as they have tightened their grip on the Indian economy, the Soviet Revisionists have carried forward a program of arms buildup in the Indian Ocean and have attempted to force India and a number of other countries in the region into an Asian Collective Security System. This policy has two purposes. First, it's a continuation of the Soviet policy of encirclement of China and Southeast Asia where revolution has been going on for a long time. Second, it's a policy which is intended to extend Soviet domination throughout the whole region in the same way that the Americans dominate Latin America. A recent British-American joint effort has been launched to enlarge a British military base in the Indian Ocean as well. This situation is totally exposed in a commentary of the **K-W Record** of February 27, 1974, which claims that although the Soviet Union is raising a big cry over the establishment of the British-American base, they will use it as an excuse to build up an even bigger arms presence in the area.

At the same time, we see frequent articles in the capitalist press which provide glimpses of the internal situation in India. Despite the fact that the Indian government was provided $970 million in 'military aid' by the Soviet Union between 1968 and 1971, and continues to get this 'aid'; the masses of Indian people are beginning to rise up and resist the continuing and increasing exploitation they are forced to bear. In five states of India the state government has been unable to maintain rule in recent times and the central government has had to step in and take over. In Uttar Pradhesh the state constabulary rebelled and the central government had to send in troops who fought the constabulary for four days before suppressing them. The cause of the rebellion was the constabulary's refusal to fire on demonstrating students, workers and peasants, many of whom are starving because of large scale hoarding of food by the big landlords and capitalists of India. In another state, Gujarat, the people have been demonstrating and fighting for more than a month against the lack of food, the high inflation caused by hoarding and against the state. Over 60 people have been killed in a month by police who are given orders to fire indiscriminately into the crowds of demonstrators. On February 28 the **K-W Record** reported that "Police killed three rioters in the west-central state of Gujarat Wednesday during anti-government protests....In one town, constables wounded eight members of a funeral procession carrying the body of a boy clubbed to death by police."

The press in the Soviet Union has

slandered the people of India who are waging resistance against the exploiters and who are rebelling because of terrible living conditions, starvation and growing fascism in the policies and actions of the ruling class. By calling the people of Gujarat "reactionaries" and "right-wing elements" the Soviet Revisionists are trying to prepare public opinion against the developing revolution in India, they are trying to confuse the real nature of the government of Indira Ghandi which represents the ruling class of India and they are trying to confuse the real nature of the presence of Soviet social imperialism in India.

The growing storm of revolution in India will not be stopped. The disorder which is so threatening to the ruling class and their friends in the Soviet revisionist party will continue to grow and lead to the liberation of the Indian people.

## Israeli Zionists shed crocodile tears

Israeli Zionists organized a meeting in Kitchener for the purpose of shedding some big crocodile tears over the fact that Syria has refused to release some troops of the Zionists who were captured in the latest war in the Middle East. While the Zionists have carved their empire out of the homeland of the Palestinian people and hold thousands of Arabs in "refugee camps"(i.e. concentration camps) under the most terrible conditions, they still try to portray themselves as "concerned" about human life. While the Zionists have carried out policies which are racist, imperialist and genocidal toward the Arab peoples they come crying over the fact that Syria has refused to release prisoners of war who were invading Syrian territory.

Zionist supporters throughout the western world have begun a campaign to slander and denounce the just struggle of the Arab people for restoration of their lands. Before the Zionists moved into the Middle East in 1949 Arab and Jewish people lived together in harmony in the state of Palestine. Once the Zionists took over, backed by the capitalist class of various western countries (mainly the U.S.) both Arabs and Jews who disagreed with Zionism were subjugated. The Arabs were put into refugee camps and the non-Zionist Jews were made into second class citizens in their own country.

Under the leadership of Golda Mier and her notorious military expert, Mosha Dayan, the Zionists have proceeded to carve out a larger and larger empire in the heart of the homeland of the Arab people. Getting massive military support from the U.S. imperialists the Zionists have been willing agents of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East and have used the backing of the U.S. to increase their strength and territory. The capitalist press assists the Zionists by spreading foul rumours based on speculation about the treatment of Zionist prisoners by the Syrians. Never a word on the plight of the Palestinian people who must fight to exist as a people.

---

Pay for hospital workers in New Brunswick is so low that hundreds of the workers are eligible for social assistance, said one union leader of the Saint John workers. A dozen workers picketed outside government offices on February 18 and said that the 800 workers will go on strike unless the government agrees to reopen contract negotiations between itself and the union. Government offices were being picketed in Saint John and throughout the province.

# Water & Sewage Rates increase Workers exploition

City government in Kitchener is the lowest level of capitalist government. Its function is to serve the interests of the capitalist class by exploiting the tax and services system to the utmost in the interests of the capitalist class. This is made clear in the recent changes in the billing system for water and sewage services in Kitchener.

The latest bill from the City announced new rates for water and sewage treatment. Under the old billing system, the highest rate was 28 cents per hundred cubic feet of water used in the three month billing period. This rate covered all usage of water up to 60,000 cubic feet and the sewer charge on this same volume was 21 cents per hundred cubic feet. The amount of water used by a working class family in three months would be quite small—1,500 to 3,000 cubic feet–and workers would never get any sort of discount on volume used.

However, the City of Kitchener has decided that it is possible to increase the exploitation of the working class and has established a new, and higher rate for the first 1500 cubic feet of water used. The new rate for the first 1500 cubic feet is 35 cents per hundred cubic feet for water and (just to confuse us) 26.75 cents per hundred cubic feet for sewage. Now any way you look at these figures they mean that workers will be paying 25 per cent more for water and sewage. The rates for both water and sewage remain unchanged for all volumes greater than 1500 cubic feet used in a three month period.

So, a working class family that uses exactly 1500 cubic feet of water in three months will end up paying $5.25 for water, $3.92 for sewage for a total of $9.17. Under the old rates, the same amount would have cost $4.20 for water, $3.15 for sewage and a total bill of $7.35. The increase for the worker's family is 25 per cent. A large company or apartment building, on the other hand, would pay much less of an increase. Say the volume consumed by an apartment building is 60,000 cubic feet during a three month period. Under the old billing system this would cost$168.00 for water, $126.00 for sewage for a combined cost of $294.00. Under the new system this same volume would cost $169.05 for water, $126.77 for sewage for a total of $295.82. The total increase for the capitalist is exactly the same as for the worker—that is an increase of $1.82 in the total bill. However, where the worker's bill has gone up by 25 per cent, the capitalist's bill has gone up **less than** ONE per cent. And for capitalists who use more than 60,000 cubic feet of water every three months the increase in cost gets smaller and smaller as the amount used increases.

Thousands and thousands of working class families are being forced to pay up to 25 per cent more for their water and sewage services so that the big monopoly capitalists can have their water at no increased cost. The gang of corporate lawyers and land speculators who run our city government are serving their class well. They are part of the capitalist class and they rule the city in the interests of their own class.

Should we ask them nicely not to be such nasty fellows, beg them to be nicer to us and only raise our water and sewage costs 20 per cent instead of 25 per cent, and the capitalist costs 1.5 per cent instead of less than one? Or should we serve notice that the capitalist class is doomed to extinction, that working people have had enough of being ruled by capitalist dictatorship? The capitalist class will always try to exploit workers to the utmost in order to increase profits for itself. They will use their government to pass laws like this

# Working women establish organizing committee

A group of women met for the first time last week to develop an organization that will work for the interests of working women in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. This group will help women who want to organize a union in the place where they work or who want to make their union representative of all workers—men and women alike. This group could play a valuable part in the actual organizing process. Most union organizers are men; but a woman, because she experiences precisely the same unjust working conditions, would be better able to talk to women workers about the need to organize for self-defence.

The new organization meets at the Women's Place. At the present time members are learning more about labour laws and how they are enforced. They are studying labour contracts, learning which working places are presently organized, and determining how and where they can be most effective in organizing women workers.

The idea for the new organization came from Madeleine Parent, labour organizer and secretary of the Canadian Textile and Chemical Union, the union involved in the recent Artistic Woodwork strike. Although February 6th was one of the stormiest days of the winter, hundreds of people, mostly women, filled the hall of Trinity United Church to hear Madeleine talk about the injustices that women workers face. Many of the women remained after the talk was over to discuss with Madeleine practical ways in which they could go about forming a union where they work. It was some of these women who decided to build an ongoing organizing committee.

Madeleine's talk certainly provided proof that women workers are presently exploited. Capitalist employers see them as nothing more than a source of cheap labour. Using the most recent government statistics available for the K-W area, Madeleine demonstrated that:

- Women in Kitchener and Waterloo are paid less money than men for performing the same job.
- They also have more education than men doing the same work.
- Nevertheless, they advance to higher level positions far more slowly than men —if they advance at all.

Madeleine pointed out that "Economic exploitation is an important gauge of the amount of justice that exists in a community." In this community the average female junior accounting clerk is paid $19 less a week than the average male junior accounting clerk. The average female senior bookkeeper receives $50 less a week than the average male senior bookkeeper. The difference in weekly pay between male and female senior clerks is $39. Some jobs are performed only by women and they are the lowest paid jobs of all. Many women at even the junior secretary level receive less money than an unskilled office boy.

---

water and sewage thing until they are overthrown and the working class is organized as the ruling class of this society.

These same statistics also show that men are promoted more quickly. Most of the jobs on the table of wage scales have junior and senior categories. Only a few women reach the senior levels, although more of them are hired at the junior levels.

It is true that Ontario has an Employment Standards Act which requires equal pay for equal work, but that equality must be exact. Pay is equal for "...the **same work** performed in the **same establishment,** the performance of which requires **equal skill**, effort and responsibility, and which is performed under **similar working conditions....**" There are all sorts of ways for employers to vary working conditions or job definition. And if all of these efforts to discriminate fail there are still four legal exceptions. Discrimination may be based on a seniority system, a merit system ("Man is more meritorious."), or earnings may be based on piece work. And it is women who do piece work as a rule. "If you work as hard as two men, maybe you will make as much money as one." Discrimination may also be "based on any factor other than sex"—including weight and height.

The Canada Labour Code is no better. Even such laws as do exist are seldom enforced. "The government will not investigate working places on its own. The woman herself has to take the initiative. Human Rights people do nothing unless you put your name and job on the line and insist that they act on your behalf. The Women's Bureau is supposed to look at grievances. Yet contracts have discrimination written into the text." (An "assembler" is a man; a "light assembler" is always a woman.) Employers can and do refuse to hire women for higher paid jobs.

Madeleine Parent used the Dare Foods Plant as an example of discrimination. During the strike she toured the plant as a member of the Status of Women delegation. Men had all the interesting jobs while women did the monotonous job of packing. And in this situation male employees, who were already receiving higher pay, were offered a larger increase than the women. Of course in the long run it was the capitalist owners who were getting rich by exploiting and dividing men and women workers.

Capitalism oppresses working women in two different ways: (1) they are exploited on the job and (2) the labour laws are either weak or they are not enforced. Laws protecting the employer, however, are strictly enforced. The same people who own the factory make the law, interpret the law, and direct the actions of the police. So, change has to take place in both on-the-job conditions and in labour legislation.

Workers themselves must begin to take an interest in the law. It is because of the apathy of workers that labour laws are so weak—and so casually enforced. Madeleine illustrated this discrimination under the law with incidents from the recent Artistic Woodwork strike. The Artistic capitalists were given police protection to get scabs through the picket line every day. However, many immigrant workers were prevented from peacefully picketing. They were threatened with deportation if they took part in a perfectly lawful strike. Some workers and their supporters who did take an active part in the strike are now faced with heavy fines and jail sentences based on trumped up charges. If workers joined together to demand better labour laws and to insist that they be enforced, such abuses could not take place.

Madeleine Parent believes that the most important thing women workers can do is to get together and organize. They should join a strong union that will demand equal pay and equal opportunity for promotions. She suggested that women join a good

Canadian union, or even start their own—a job which, she insists, is easier than it would appear.

"Where a union already exists, be active in it. Where people are not organized, people have to get together, talk about their problems, organize and bargain collectively. Women cannot work as individuals. They must get together on the job and collectively use their bargaining strength to get justice and equal conditions. They must work together to get better pay and challenge the employer on higher paid jobs and promotion. Women must work together in their own interest and in the interest of their fellow workers who are men, to stop the exploitation of all workers." Equal pay for women benefits men as well as women. A company will not refuse to hire a man if he must pay the same salary to a woman as to a man.

Madeleine recommended that organizers first of all be patient. Get to know the people. Don't be surprised if other workers don't trust you at first. She also suggested going to the most severely oppressed employees first, the ones who are the most aware of their own oppression. In this way a small nucleus of people can form and grow. Madeleine Parent herself has organized groups of immigrant workers who do not even speak the same language, so barriers can be overcome and divisions broken down.

Madeleine suggested that a back-up organization, such as the one receantly formed here, can be an immense help in organizing women workers. A woman who is afraid to talk openly at work about forming a union may feel comfortable talking with another woman in her own home or in another safe place. Obviously too, no one person can organize a place where the workers speak a variety of languages. Several women working together can share their various skills and experiences and they can provide spirit for one another.

A group of this kind can educate women about their legal rights to join or organize a union. It can teach them that there is no prestige in being unorganized and that justice means more than working in an air conditioned office with a carpet on the floor. It does mean equal pay, equal opportunities for advancement, job security and safe working conditions. These are things that can be achieved only when all workers join together to demand them.

## Half a million public service employees strike in Japan

More than half a million public service employees went on strike in Japan for 24 hours on March 1. The strike included the employees of the national railway and closed down the railways completely. Sixteen Japanese trade unions joined together in the strike, demanding a 30 per cent pay rise and anti-inflation measures by the government. Other strikes are planned for the coming weeks with the same demands. Also on strike on March 1 were a number of miners and other workers in private industry.

---

**On The Line is produced voluntarily by a staff of workers in the Kitchener area.**

Sources for this issue were **People's Canada Daily News**, the daily publication of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) and **Viet Nam Courier**, an English language publication produced in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Editor—Bill Aird

# Capitalist historians distort real nature of class society

As long as there have been capitalists, they have used every means possible to exploit the working class and all working people. Workers have fought against the capitalist class for as long as there have been capitalists. But the development of the working class **as a class** is entrenched in the 'organized' resistance of workers to the exploitation of the capitalist class. There is a rich and glorious history of organized resistance by workers to capitalist exploitation—a history you won't find written in any of the textbooks or history books in schools or libraries. It is in the interests of the capitalists to pretend that all the wealth of the society and all the things that have ever been done are the result of great men 'making decisions'. Yet, all the wealth of the society has been created by workers and it is the history of workers struggles to defend themselves from capitalist exploitation which provides movement in society. The capitalists can only try to serve their own class interests—they are a reactionary and backward force in the development of society, who try to maintain a decadent and corrupt system which serves their own interests but cannot solve the problems of the vast majority of working people.

It is in the interests of the capitalist class to distort the real nature of things so that their real motives and actions will not be clear. For instance, the First World War, which was promoted by the capitalist class, at the time, as "the war to end all wars" is now totally distorted by the capitalist version of history. According to the text books we are taught from in the capitalist educational system, the First World War was 'caused' by the shooting of some Grand Duke in a small country in southern Europe. This is a good example of taking a small detail of history and saying it is the whole of history—one of the favourite methods used by bourgeois historians to cover over the truth about the real process of historical development. In actual fact, the First World War (WWI) was caused by the greed of the capitalist class who were fighting among themselves over who would control the world. Britain, Germany, France and all the other capitalist powers were determined to gain control over the large oil reserves in the Middle East and were all trying to expand their control over the undeveloped countries which provided cheap sources of raw materials and huge markets for manufactured goods. The imperialist interests of various national capitalist groups came into conflict and erupted as a war. The shooting of some Grand Duke or other was nothing but a convenient excuse for the beginning of hostilities.

This is the way that the capitalist historians try to distort the process of world history in order to cover up the real motives and actions of the capitalist class. When it comes to history of the working class, however, the capitalist historian would prefer to pretend that it's just not there. By ignoring the resistance of the working class to capitalist exploitation in their textbooks they are hoping it will just go away. This is the same strategy as an ostrich uses—and it won't work.

During World War I, various capitalist politicians and other ruling class representatives would go to the front lines to "bolster the morale of the troops". One of the main lines that these characters gave was "Nothing will be too good for you boys when you get home". This line was nothing more than a lie as the veterans found when they returned home in 1919 to find the economy in a state of depression and no jobs to be found.

This gave rise to spontaneous uprisings of workers across the country and Kitchener was no exception. Unable to find work and now beginning to see through the lies of the capitalists, veterans in Kitchener organized themselves and 500 of them marched on a meeting of City Council demanding that they be given jobs.

The mayor and councillors, all honourable gentlemen (and capitalists), hastily drew together a plan to begin the opening of sewers in the city and this was passed at the meeting. When the question of wages came up one councillor suggested 30 cents an hour, another 35 and a third 40 cents an hour. None of the others would go higher than 40 cents an hour. A spokesman for the veterans announced to his fellows "Well boys, it looks like the wages for this work will be 45 cents an hour"! And so they were.

The veterans were divided into two groups and one group began digging trenches for sewers on each side of King Street. Some time later they were informed by their foremen that the wages were being cut to 40 cents an hour for the work. The war experience of these workers came into action at this and the call was issued and they went over the top of the trenches they were digging, back to City Hall and the wages were once again set at 45 cents an hour.

These working class men, who fought for their wage demands against the capitalists in City Hall became the backbone of the workers movement in the 30's when the trade unions were established in Kitchener. These are the heroes of the working class movement—not the Kaufmans, Dares, Webers, etc who are only heroes to the capitalist class because they have helped maintain the exploitation and suppression of the mass of working people in Kitchener.

The working class of Kitchener has a rich and glorious history of struggling against the exploitation of the capitalist class. We have our heroes, although you won't find any mention of them in the capitalist version of history. It is important that we look into our movement, discover how it has developed and what the contradictions are. It is important that we discover who our heroes are, not only because the tradition of the working class is something to be honoured, but also because we must carry on that tradition. The men who went over the top of the trenches in 1919 and helped organize the defence organizations of the working class in the hungry 30's are working class men. We must learn from them how to organize and learn from them what the mistakes were and carry on and correct those mistakes. This is the tradition of the working class which must be carried forward. This is the way that the working class will be organized as the ruling class. In this way the capitalist class will be overthrown and the capitalist system brought to an end as it should be.

**On The Line**
**P.O. Box 2305**
**Station B**
**Kitchener**
**(742-8289)**

## Paperworkers to vote on an independent Canadian union

The 52,000 members of the United Paperworkers International Union will vote before April 30 on whether to become an independent Canadian union. U.P.I.U. is at present part of an international union. The 184 presidents of U.P.I.U. locals in Canada voted on February 19 to hold a referendum on the subject of an independent Canadian union for Canadian pulp and paper workers. Union officials stressed that an independent Canadian pulp and paper workers' union would maintain "close fraternal ties" with the U.P.I.U.

**Subscribe**

$1 for 10 issues
$2. for 20 issues

**On the line,**
P.O. Box 2305,
Station B,
Kitchener.

Bulk rates on request

## Overwhelming strike vote at Anglo-canadian pulp

The one hundred office workers at Anglo-Canadian Pulp in Quebec voted 97 per cent to go on strike on March 9 if their demands are not met. Their contract expired ten months ago and they still have not received an acceptable offer from the company. The office workers are demanding wage parity with their colleagues in Dryden , Ontario. The main points of contention are wages, preservation of sickness and holiday benefits which they won in the last contract and an increase in unemployment insurance benefits. The strikes which swept the production workers in the pulp and paper industry now seem to be spilling over to the office workers.

### G.M.

## Hardest hit by auto decline

The entire automobile industry of the United States has suffered a serious decline in sales and a drop in production in the first months of 1974. Preliminary figures just released indicate that sales at the end of February in the U.S. motor car industry are one third below their level at the same time last year. General Motors, the largest of the automobile firms in the U.S., has seen its share of the market in February drop to 44 per cent from 52.9 per cent at the same time last year. The serious setback in the U.S. auto industry will have grave repercussions on the Canadian industry which is entirely dependent on the U.S. Shutdowns in Canada will cause even further layoffs in the auto and auto parts industries in Canada.